

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing a hot key corresponding to a particular function in a computer system, the computer system having a graphical user interface (GUI) and including a pointing device enabling a user to select items displayed in the GUI, the particular function provided for a context of an application program, the user providing input within the context, the method comprising the steps of:

integrating a hot key configuring function into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from within the context and without leaving the context, wherein the context includes a displayed item displayed in the GUI corresponding to the particular function, and wherein the particular function is performed ~~when in response to~~ the displayed item [[is]] ~~being~~ selected by the pointing device; and

mapping the hot key to the particular function and storing the mapping, the mapping and storing performed without the user leaving the context and in response to the user utilizing the hot key configuring function in the context, wherein the mapping causes the particular function to be accessed by the computer system when the mapped hot key is selected, and wherein the mapping includes:

receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped, the indication provided by the user moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate

the particular function corresponding to the displayed item for the mapping, wherein the same displayed item is selectable by the pointing device to perform the particular function and is indicatable by the pointing device to indicate the particular function for the mapping; and receiving a key combination as the hot key in response to the user selecting the key combination using a hardware input device, the key combination being received after the indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped has been received.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: accounting for ambiguities in the receiving of the key combination between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key such that the mapping of the particular function to the hot key is not confused with accessing a function previously mapped to the hot key.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the pointing device includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function integrating step further includes the steps of: determining the plurality of items selectable in the context; and providing a mechanism that maps at least one of the plurality of items to the hot key from the context without the user leaving the context.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the hot key configuring function integrating step further includes the step of: providing a mechanism that accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

5. (Cancelled).
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the indication of the particular function using the pointing device over the displayed item does not cause the particular function to be performed key combination includes a plurality of keys.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled).
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function includes the user hovering the pointing device over the displayed item for a predetermined amount of time, wherein the indication of the particular function for mapping does not include clicking the pointing device on the displayed item, and wherein the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function includes clicking on the displayed item.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program instructions for providing a hot key corresponding to a particular function in a computer system, the computer system having a graphical user interface (GUI) and including a pointing device enabling a user to select items displayed in the GUI, the particular function provided for a

context of an application program, the user providing input within the context, the program instructions for:

integrating a hot key configuring function into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from within the context and without leaving the context, wherein the context includes a displayed item displayed in the GUI corresponding to the particular function, and wherein the particular function is performed when in response to the displayed item [[is]] being selected by the pointing device; and

mapping the hot key to the particular function and storing the mapping, the mapping and storing performed without the user leaving the context and in response to the user utilizing the hot key configuring function in the context, wherein the mapping causes the particular function to be accessed by the computer system when the mapped hot key is selected, and wherein the mapping includes:

receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped, the indication provided by the user moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function corresponding to the displayed item for the mapping, wherein the same displayed item is selectable by the pointing device to perform the particular function and is indicatable by the pointing device to indicate the particular function for the mapping; and

receiving a key combination as the hot key in response to the user selecting the key combination using a hardware input device, the key combination being received after the indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped has been received.

13. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the program further includes instructions for:

~~accounting for ambiguities in the receiving of the key combination between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key such that the mapping of the particular function to the hot key is not confused with accessing a function previously mapped to the hot key~~

14. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the pointing device includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function integrating instructions further includes instructions for:

determining the plurality of items selectable in the context; and
providing a mechanism that maps at least one of the plurality of items to the hot key from the context without the user leaving the context.

15. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the hot key configuring function integrating instructions further includes instructions for:

providing a mechanism that accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

16. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein ~~the indication of the particular function using the pointing device over the displayed item does not cause the particular function to be performed the mapping instructions further includes instructions for:~~

~~— receiving a key combination selected by the user as the hot key, the key combination including a plurality of keys.~~

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function includes the user hovering the pointing device over the displayed item for at least a predetermined amount of time, and wherein the indication of the particular function for mapping does not include clicking the pointing device on the displayed item, and wherein the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function includes clicking on the displayed item.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:
a hardware mechanism that provides an application, the application providing a context and having a particular function available therein, the particular function provided for a context of an application program, a user providing input within the context;
a graphical user interface (GUI);
a pointing device enabling a user to select items displayed in the GUI, wherein the context includes a displayed item displayed in the GUI corresponding to the particular function, and wherein the particular function is performed when in response to the displayed item [[is]] being selected by the pointing device; and

a hot key configuring function integrated into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from within the context and without leaving the context, the integrated hot key configuring function utilized by the user to designate a mapping of the hot key to the particular function and store the mapping without the user leaving the context, wherein the mapping causes the particular function to be accessed by the computer system when the mapped hot key is selected, and wherein the mapping is created by receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped and receiving a key combination as the hot key in response to the user selecting the key combination using a hardware input device, the key combination being received after the indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped has been received, wherein the indication is provided by the user moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function corresponding to the displayed item for the mapping, wherein the same displayed item is selectable by the pointing device to perform the particular function and is indicatable by the pointing device to indicate the particular function for the mapping.

24. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the integrated hot key configuring function further accounts for ambiguities in the receiving of the key combination between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key such that the mapping of the particular function to the hot key is not confused with accessing a function previously mapped to the hot key.

25. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the pointing device includes a mouse, and wherein the hot key configuring function further determines the plurality of items selectable in the context and provides a mechanism that maps at least one of the

plurality of buttons to the hot key from the context.

26. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the hot key configuring function further includes a mechanism that accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

27. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the indication of the particular function using the pointing device over the displayed item does not cause the particular function to be performed key combination including a plurality of keys.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 26 wherein the moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function includes the user hovering the pointing device over the displayed item for at least a predetermined amount of time, wherein the indication of the particular function for mapping does not include clicking the pointing device on the displayed item, and wherein the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function includes clicking on the displayed item.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes receiving the indication of the particular function made by the user without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the indicating of the particular function includes the user hovering a pointing device over a portion of the corresponding item in the GUI for a predetermined amount of time, and wherein the indication of the particular function for mapping does not include clicking the pointing device on the displayed item, and wherein the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function includes clicking on the displayed item.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the displayed item is a text-based item including displayed text, and wherein the indication of the particular function includes selecting a portion of the text of the corresponding item, the portion of the text being less than the entire displayed text of the displayed item.

38. (cancelled).

39. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes

receiving the indication of the particular function made by the user without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

40. (cancelled).

41. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein the displayed item is a text-based item including displayed text, and wherein the indication of the particular function includes selecting a portion of the text of the corresponding item, the portion of the text being less than the entire displayed text of the displayed item.

42. (cancelled).

43. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the indication of the particular function is made by the user without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

44. (cancelled).

45. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the displayed item is a text-based item including displayed text, and wherein the indicating of the particular function includes selecting a portion of the text of the corresponding item, the portion of the text being less than the entire displayed text of the displayed item.

46. (currently amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the indicating of the particular function for the mapping includes:

clicking on a portion one letter of the text of the corresponding displayed item with the pointing device, and wherein a key of the hardware input device that matches the one letter the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

47. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the indicating of the particular function for the mapping includes:

clicking on a portion one letter of the text of the corresponding displayed item with the pointing device, and wherein a key of the hardware input device that matches the one letter the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

48. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 45 wherein the indicating of the particular function for the mapping includes:

clicking on a portion one letter of the text of the corresponding displayed item with the pointing device, and wherein a key of the hardware input device that matches the one letter the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 35 wherein the context is a particular context, and wherein the application program has a plurality of different contexts which can each independently receive user input.

50. (new) The method of claim 6 wherein the indication of the particular function to which

the hot key is to be mapped is provided by an action of the pointing device different than an action of the pointing device providing the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function.

51. (new) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped is provided by an action of the pointing device different than an action of the pointing device providing the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function.

52. (new) The computer system of claim 27 wherein the indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped is provided by an action of the pointing device different than an action of the pointing device providing the selection of the displayed item to perform the particular function.